

Indoor & Outdoor Secondhand Smoke Exposure

Secondhand smoke (SHS) is a known cancer-causing agent in humans and is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Group A carcinogen. Group A carcinogens include only the most dangerous substances, such as asbestos and radon. SHS is one of the most common sources of indoor air pollution in California and in the nation. For the above reasons, monitoring knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and reported exposure regarding SHS is a major concern of tobacco control.

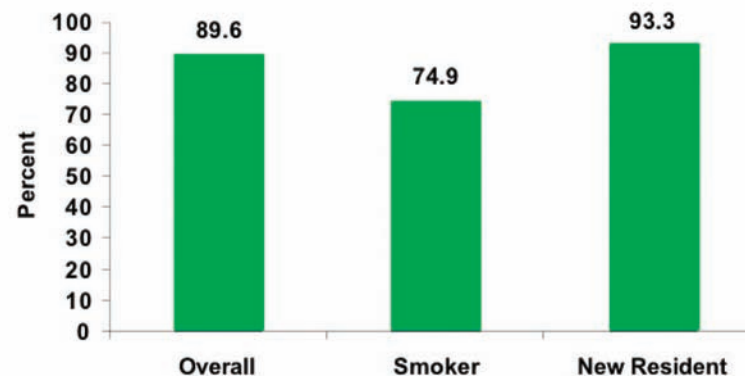
Protection from SHS

- Smoke-free workplaces: In 1995, the California smoke-free workplace law banned smoking in most indoor workplaces, including restaurants and clubs. Smoking bans in bars went into effect in 1998.¹
- Smoke-free doorways: In January 2004, a law prohibiting smoking within 20 feet of a main entrance, exit, and operable window of all public buildings went into effect.²
- Smoke-free beaches: As of May 2005, there were 18 smoke-free beaches on the California coast.^{3,4}
- Smoke-free parks: In January 2005, San Francisco became the first American city to ban smoking in their public parks.⁵

Attitudes about SHS laws

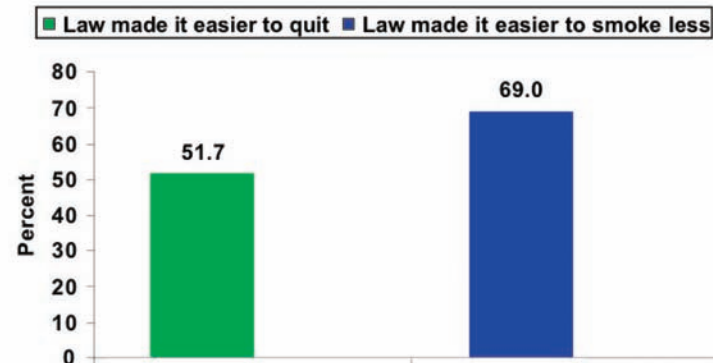
- 89.6% of Californians surveyed approve of the state's smoke-free workplace law.
- 93.3% of new residents (i.e., moved to California after the smoke-free law had already gone into effect), approve of the law.
- 73.0% of Californians agreed that smoking should be prohibited in outdoor dining areas at restaurants.
- More than half (52%) of former smokers who quit in the past 10 years said that having smoke-free public places made it easier for them to attempt to quit smoking.
- Despite perceived hardships on smokers by California's smoke-free workplace law, more than twice as many smokers from California prefer a smoke-free restaurant compared to smokers in the rest of the United States (69.0% vs. 33.0%).
- 70.0% of Californians agreed that apartment complexes should require half their rental units to be smoke free.

Approval of Smoke-Free Workplace Law
in 2004



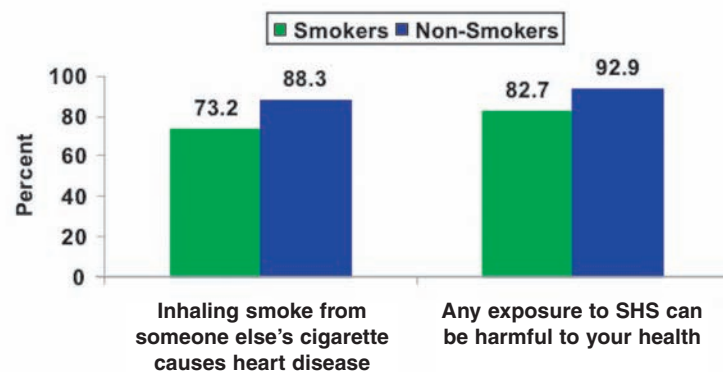
Note: "New resident" defined as Californians who moved to the state after the 1995 law went into effect. "Approval" includes "strong" approval and "somewhat" approval. Source: the 2004 Survey of California Adults on Secondhand Smoke conducted by Field Research Corporation. Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

Smokers and Former Smokers in 2004 Who
Agreed Smoke-Free Workplace Law Made it
Easier to Quit or Smoke Less



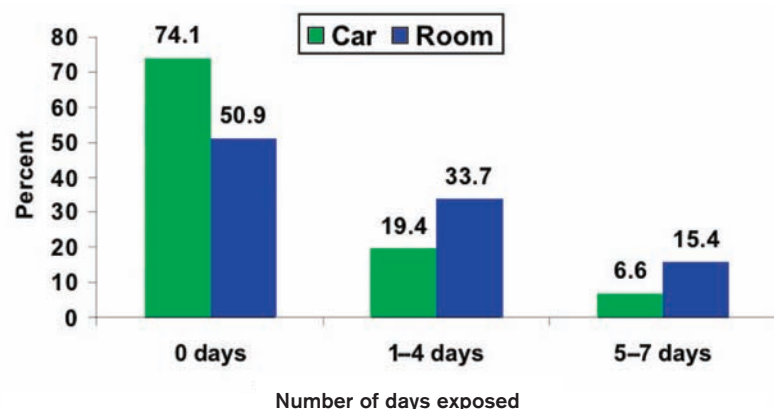
Source: the 2004 Survey of California Adults on Secondhand Smoke conducted by Field Research Corporation. Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

Percent of Smokers versus Nonsmokers Who Strongly Agree SHS Is Harmful to Health



Source: Media Tracking Study, Wave 3 (2002).
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

Percent of California Youth Exposed to Secondhand Smoke in the Past Seven Days—2004



Source: California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS) 2004.
Prepared by California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, May 2005.

Beliefs about SHS and Health

- 73.2% of smokers compared to 88.0% of nonsmokers believe that inhaling smoke from someone else's cigarette causes heart disease.
- 82.7% of smokers compared to 92.9% of nonsmokers believe that any exposure to SHS can be harmful to health.

SHS Exposure

- From 1994 to 2004, the percentage of Californians with children under 18 who prohibited smoking in their home increased by 27.0% from 63.0% to 79.8%.
- The proportion of adults working indoors who report having smoke-free workplaces has increased dramatically since 1990, especially after the California smoke-free workplace law went into effect in 1995. By 2002, about 96% reported a complete smoking ban existed in their workplace.
- In 2004, almost 51% of youths were not exposed during the previous 7 days to SHS by being in the same room with someone who was smoking.
- In 2004, 3 out of 4 youths said they were not exposed during the previous 7 days to SHS in a car.

About the Surveys

The *California Adult Tobacco Survey* (1993–2004) is a random digit-dial telephone survey of approximately 4,000 adults. Data have been weighted to the 1990 California population using gender, four race groups, and two age groups.

The Field Research Poll (2004) was a random sample public opinion survey of 901 current and former smokers in California ages 25 and older about state smoking policies.

Media Tracking Study (2002, Wave 3). A random digit dialing method was utilized to survey respondents in California and the rest of the United States.

The California Student Tobacco Survey (CSTS) (2002–2004) is an in-school student survey of tobacco use for both middle (grades 6–8) and high school (grades 9–12) students. The CSTS is weighted to the 2001 population of California in-school youth, by gender, grade level, and race/ethnicity.

References

1. *California State Labor Code 6404.5*
2. *Government Code 7596–7598, 19994.30, and 19994.33*. Includes all codes that were addressed in *AB 846*. *Government Code 7597* specifically addresses the 20-foot distance provision and states that colleges, universities, and local governments are not preempted from passing their own policies that expand the distance.
3. *Smoke Free Beaches Report*: prepared by the Los Angeles County Health Department, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, May 2005.
4. Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights (ANR) Database, June 2005.
5. *Ordinance No. 041307*, effective July 1, 2005. Ordinance excludes golf courses and parks run by the federal government.

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